

CLAIMS:

1. A method for reducing the transmission requirements of a system for transmitting image data stored in a memory to a display device, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a first portion of the image data so that remaining image data is not selected;

fetching the selected portion of the image data from the memory; and

not fetching the remaining image data from the memory.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the image data includes main image data and overlay image data having a second portion that overlaps the main image data, and wherein said step of selecting said first portion of the image data selects from the main image data and wherein said remaining image data includes main image data corresponding to said second portion of said overlay image data.

3. An apparatus for reducing the transmission requirements of a system for transmitting image data stored in a memory to a display device, comprising:

a processor for selecting a first portion of the image data so that remaining image data is not selected;

a first display pipe; and

control logic adapted to cause said first display pipe to fetch the selected portion of the image data from the memory and not to fetch the remaining image data from the memory.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the image data includes main image data and overlay image data having a second portion that overlaps the main image data, wherein said processor is adapted to select said first portion of the image data from the main image data and store said first portion in said first display pipe, and wherein said remaining image data includes main image data corresponding to said second portion of said overlay image data.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a second display pipe, wherein said control logic is adapted to switch from said first display pipe to said second display pipe to obtain said second portion of the overlay image data.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said processor is adapted to provide said control logic location-defining information for said main image data and said overlay image data, and wherein said control logic is adapted to switch between said first and second display pipes according to said location-defining information.